

## Featured Stories



### European Mutuals' Statute

#### Public Hearing on the EMS in the EMPL Committee

20 June: Save the Date for the Employment Committee Hearing on the Statute in the Parliament



### Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices

#### Pharmacovigilance reform on its way

MEPs approved Linda McAvan's amendments.



### Data Protection

#### First Discussions in the Parliament

Discussions on the Data Protection Regulation began in Parliament with aim to agree by December 2012.



### E-health

#### Better use of health data

E-health Task Force Report was released at the occasion of e-health Week.

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## Next Meeting dates

<b>15 June</b>	European affairs WG in Brussels
<b>28 June</b>	Pharmaceuticals and MD WG in Brussels
25 July	Fight against fraud WG in Brussels
6 September	European affairs WG in Brussels
28-29 Nov.	AIM Board of Directors meetings and Conference on healthy ageing
30 Nov.	Health System Reform WG in Brussels Fight against fraud WG in Brussels

TF: Task Force  
WG: Working Group

## JUNE 2012: AIM Events' Calendar

Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
				<b>1 XXXth General Assembly</b>	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	<b>15 EU WG</b>	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	<b>28 Pharma WG</b>	29	30	

## AIM and you

### ➤ *Consultations*

On 11 May, AIM contributed to the public consultation on the future of European Company Law.

### ➤ *Working Groups*

#### **AIM-AMICE Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and on 30 May**

AIM has had two meetings with AMICE to discuss the conference of Mr Berlinguer on own-initiative report on EMS. A proposition of Programme is under validation of the MEP.

#### **XXXth AIM General Assembly and Board of Directors**

AIM's General meetings gathered for the 30<sup>th</sup> time and gathered in Brussels members coming from everywhere in Europe and also Latin America and Africa. A detailed overview of the meetings will be released in a special briefing by the end of the first week of June.

### ➤ *Members' news*

#### **AIM welcomes four new members**

Four new Mutuels have joined AIM forces:

- MFA (Mutuelle des Forces Auxiliaires) from Morocco as full member,
- CMSS (Caisse Mutuelle de Sécurité Sociale) from Morocco as corresponding member,
- MODEP (Mutuelle de l'Office d'Exploitation des Ports) from Morocco as corresponding member,
- Montepio Geral from Portugal as corresponding member.



## European Institutions

### ➤ *EU Council*

#### **Denmark gives the healthcare sector an e-push**

The Danish EU presidency has put innovation in health care on the European agenda under the title "Smart health – better lives". The aim is to strengthen the dissemination of new health care technology in order to improve quality of care and working conditions in the health care sector. Resources should be used better and improve the possibilities for exports of new technology. At the same time the "High Level eHealth Conference" celebrates its tenth anniversary (See [Press Release](#))

### ➤ *Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices*

#### **Pharmacovigilance: MEPs want to improve the detection of potentially dangerous medicines**

The public health committee adopted Ms McAvan's two reports on 7 May 2012 and also inserted amendments to the existing pharmacovigilance legislation. If the Council and Parliament reach an agreement on these changes in first reading, they could be incorporated into law before the planned implementation date of July 2012.

The committee's amendments include: Urgent removal from shelves in case of not renewing of a licence for safety reasons, specific declaration on safety concern by withdrawal; additional monitoring for all drugs subject to certain post-authorisation safety study (See [Press Release](#)).



### ➤ *Active and Healthy Ageing*

#### **2012 Ageing Report published today – an ageing EU population and its consequences on the economy and public finances**

This [Report](#) presented to the ECOFIN council in May 2012, details the expenditure projections covering pensions, health care, long-term care, education and unemployment transfers for all Member States.

The report is structured in two parts. The first describes the assumptions underlying the population projection, the labour force projection and the other macroeconomic assumptions. The second part presents the projection of expenditure on pensions, health care, long-term care, education and unemployment transfers. A statistical annex gives a country-by-country overview of the main assumptions and results(See [Press Release](#)).

## Council conclusions on the sustainability of public finances in the light of ageing populations

On 15 May the Council published [Council Conclusions](#) calling for more sustainability in public finances in the context of ageing. The Council has invited the member states to enhance the performance of health care systems and implement sound and needed reforms. The Council also invited the Commission to include this factor in its surveillance of EU member states budgets.

### ➤ Health System

#### Health Programme: EU High-level Conference on EU Health Programmes

Between 2003 and 2012, EU funded Health programmes represent 673 health projects. The high-level conference, held on 3 May, was the occasion to celebrate the tenth year of EU health programmes. On this occasion the results and success stories from the first and second Health Programmes were presented. The conference was also an opportunity to share views and build consensus for the future third programme. See the [Report](#) on previous EU Health Programmes.



Current EU Health Programme in Figures



#### e-health: Better use of health data will transform the healthcare landscape

A high-level group of experts today warned that Europeans will only be able to benefit from the affordable, less intrusive and more personalised healthcare which Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) can bring if agreement is reached on how to use health data. The group, headed by the President of Estonia, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, delivered this and other recommendations in a [report](#) to redesign health in Europe to Vice President Neelie Kroes and

© Commissioner John Dalli at eHealth Week 2012 in Copenhagen, Denmark (See [Press Release](#)). The eHealth Task Force was established a year ago ([Press Release](#)) to advise the Commission on how to unlock the potential of eHealth for safer, better and more efficient healthcare in Europe.

#### e-health: Facilitating access to cross-border eHealth services through the European Health Insurance Card

The European Health Insurance Card is being used in epSOS, a pilot project co-financed by the European Commission, which aims at developing cross-border eHealth services. epSOS can make a significant contribution to patient safety by reducing the frequency of medical errors and by providing quick access to documentation. In emergency situations, this documentation provides the medical personnel with life-saving information and reduces the (sometimes needless) repetition of diagnostic procedures. As from 13 April 2012, the technical, legal and organisational concepts developed within the framework of the project are subject to an extensive practical testing phase over one year. For the first time, patients in Europe will have the opportunity to use cross-border eHealth services when seeking healthcare in participating epSOS pilot countries (See [Press Release](#))



#### Digital Agenda: New Regulation to enable cross-border electronic signatures

The European Commission has proposed new rules to enable cross-border and secure electronic transactions in Europe. The proposed Regulation will ensure people and businesses can use their own national electronic identification schemes (e-IDs) to access public services in other EU countries where e-IDs are available. It also creates an internal market for e-Signatures and related online trust services across borders, by

© ensuring these services will work across borders and have the same legal status as traditional paper based processes. This will give full effect to the major potential savings of eProcurement (See [Press Release](#)).

#### VAT: Council conclusions on the future of VAT

The council of the EU adopted [Council Conclusions](#) on the priorities for further work defining that the VAT system should be simpler, more efficient, more robust and fraud-proof, and tailored to the single market. It specifically mentioned public sector stating: "The Council of the European Union -concur with the need to examine in further detail the present EU rules on the application of VAT to the public sector, in so far as there is competition between the public and private sectors", and also expressed the desire to clarify the rules concerning non-profit-making organisations.

#### Data Protection: Workshop on Data Protection by LIBE Committee

The workshop on Data Protection organised in the European Parliament on 30/05 was the occasion to hear different views on the Regulation on Personal Data Protection from consumers, business, Data Protection Authorities. From the healthcare sector, questions on the cost of the right to be forgotten and the right to data portability have been raised but the panel failed to reply to these questions.



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Main topics for debates were the legitimate interest clause used by businesses for marketing purposes, the resources and independence of Data Protection Authorities. The excessive influence of the European Commission in the implementation through delegated acts has also been criticized by many actors. More information on the workshop is available [online](#) and the minutes of the event can be sent on request.

### **EU-wide survey shows that a majority of EU citizens supports stronger tobacco control measures**

On the eve of World No Tobacco Day, the European Commission publishes an EU study on attitudes towards tobacco. On average, 60% of citizens support measures to make tobacco less visible and attractive, such as keeping tobacco products out of sight in shops or curbing the use of attractive flavours and colours. At the same time, other figures give cause for concern: 28% of EU citizens aged 15 and over smoke, and 70% of the smokers and ex-smokers took up the habit before the age of 18 (See [Press Release](#)).

### **Ombudsman calls for more transparency concerning medicines for children**

The European Ombudsman, P. Nikiforos Diamandouros, has called on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to increase the transparency of its procedures for ensuring that children can benefit from new medicines. This follows a complaint from two pharmaceutical companies which were required by EMA to test the suitability for children of their heart failure medicine. They alleged unfair treatment because other pharmaceutical companies had been exempted from the obligation to test similar products. The Ombudsman concluded that EMA did not properly disclose its assessments in these cases. He called on the Agency to make its procedures more transparent in the future (See [press release](#))

#### ➤ *European Mutuals' Statute*

### **EMPL Committee Public Hearing on a European statute for mutuals by Pervenche Bérès on 20<sup>th</sup> June**

AIM has informally been informed that the EP Employment committee (EMPL) is organising on 20/06 (3pm to 4.30pm) a hearing on the European Mutual Society in the EP in Brussels. Three external experts will be invited to explain to the MEPs of the Employment committee why a European statute is needed for mutuals. AIM will be invited as an expert to this meeting as well as another French expert from MACIF and a representative from AMICE.



#### ➤ *Social Services*

### **Social Business Initiative**

The EMPL Committee had a first discussion of the draft report by Mr Becker (EPP- AT) on the Commission communication "Social Business Initiative - Creating a favourable climate for social enterprises, key stakeholders in the social economy and innovation". In his [draft report](#) Mr Becker supports these three broad aims and the 11 "key actions" meant to quickly make progress, the need for a European mutual statute being mentioned several times.

While most groups agree with the main messages, a point of concern is the definitions that Mr Becker uses for social enterprises that should be in line with the definitions used in other recent EMPL reports such as on Social Entrepreneurship Funds. The deadline for amendments was set for 5 June 2012 and vote in EMPL is scheduled for 10 July 2012 in view of the September part-session.

### **Expert Group on Social Business starts work**

Following the Communication on the Social Business Initiative, the Directorate General Internal Market and Services has decided to set up a new Commission Group of Experts entitled "Groupe d'Experts de la Commission sur l'entrepreneuriat social" ('GECES').

GECES will be set up for six years (2012 – 2017) and aims to: (i) examine the progress of the measures envisaged in the Social Business Initiative; (ii) be consulted by the Commission on the development, setting up and implementation of the 11 key actions listed in the Social Business Initiative; and (iii) be consulted by the Commission on the opportunity, development, setting up and implementation of some or all other actions mentioned in the Social Business Initiative. The list of members selected (gender and geographical balance will be sought) will be established and published in May, for a first kick off meeting of GECES scheduled on 5 June 2012 in Brussels. You can find more information on the Commission dedicated [page](#).

### ➤ Trends in health system

#### Time to learn from the Dutch champions how to build value-for-money healthcare!

Despite financial crisis and media alarm signals, European healthcare keeps improving its performance, according to the [Euro Health Consumer Index 2012](#). The Index champion was the Netherlands, gaining 872 out of potential 1 000 points. The Dutch were followed by Denmark, Iceland, Luxemburg and Belgium, the top group of this 34-country benchmark. There is a widening gap between the top countries and the weakest. The Netherlands should set the standard for European healthcare reform, argues the EHCI owner, the Sweden-based think tank Health Consumer Powerhouse (HCP).

#### Beware the rationing of care

With the new NHS reform in England, GPs will be responsible at the local level for ensuring that NHS spending is kept within budget, with trends towards rationing in response to financial pressures, according to a [paper](#) from the King's Fund "Thinking about rationing". Research suggests that people trusts doctors far more than politicians or civil servants, and they would rather have them make rationing health care - that is, denying patients potentially beneficial treatments because of limits to resources. But the doctors raised concerns that 'the pressure to make savings and be the financial managers of care is compromising the relationship between clinician and patient'. The authors warn to be particularly alert to risks to care posed by efficiency programmes.



#### World Health Assembly: 65<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly supports universal coverage

The 65<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly opened with delegates noting the tremendous achievements in health in recent decades and the emergence of global solidarity around health. Multiple Member States supported the concept of universal health coverage. "Universal health coverage is the single most powerful concept that public health has to offer," added Dr Chan. Appointed for a second five-year term as DG, Dr. Chan stated that specific priorities she would pursue over the next five years would include "health systems and capacity building; chronic non-communicable diseases, mental health and disabilities; health security; health development for poverty reduction; access to medical products, and improving WHO performance through reform." The elected President of the Health Assembly is the Minister of Health of Côte d'Ivoire. The Assembly adopted 21 resolutions and three decisions were adopted. See [Press Release](#).

## Press Review

### ➤ Health data

#### World Health Statistics 2012

[WHO](#) - This edition of the WHO's annual compilation of health-related data for its 194 Member States includes a summary of the progress made towards achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals and highlights the topics of non-communicable diseases, universal health coverage and civil registration coverage.

#### US Health System Measurement Project

[US Department of Health](#) - The online Health System Measurement Project tracks US government data on critical American health system indicators. The website presents national trend data along with detailed views provided by population characteristics such as age, sex, income level, and insurance coverage status.

#### Heidi - Health in Europe: Information and Data Interface

[European Commission](#). Heidi is a comprehensive search tool for European health information and data set up by the Commission. It contains information about health status, determinants, diseases, health systems, trends, institutional and policy aspects. Health experts are invited to become Heidi editors.

#### Qualitative Eurobarometer on patient involvement in healthcare

The new [Eurobarometer](#) gives in-depth interviews with patients and healthcare professionals in 15 EU Member States to examine opinions, challenges and opportunities to get a clear view on what patients and doctors think about patient involvement.

### ➤ Health system in transition (HiT)

#### New HiT system review 2012 on Sweden

##### [European observatory of health-systems](#)

Reforms that started in the 1990s have gradually diversified the spectrum and introduced new forms of governance, also aiming to extend the level of choice and responsiveness towards patients. Despite the fact that health outcomes and clinical quality in Sweden may be among the best in the world, much focus has been put in recent years on increasing regional transparency and improving the safety, quality and efficiency of services. The further development of primary care and elderly care as well as a better coordination between providers have been priorities for policy makers.

### ➤ Health website

#### Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention

##### [British National Health Service](#)

This website is intended to be a resource for everyone in the British National Health Service (NHS), public health

and social care for making decisions about patient care or the use of resources. The collection comprises case studies, Cochrane reviews and links to other tools and resources.

➤ **Primary care**

**Primary care: today and tomorrow - improving general practice by working differently**

[Deloitte Center for Health Solutions](#) - This report reviews the historic role of British general practitioners (GPs) in primary care before offering evidence-based solutions to today's challenges. The report highlights the importance of the Registered Patient List System (RPLS) built by Britain's GPs in developing future models of care.

## Health events in Europe

➤ **Danish EU Presidency**

21-22/06, Luxembourg [Meeting of Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs \(EPSCO\)](#), Council of the European Union

➤ **Other events**

6-8/06, Brussels UPMC Telemedicine Symposium, "**A Global Approach to eHealth**" symposium

6/06, Brussels EP Event ""Towards improved cooperation in eHealth", hosted by MEP Edit Herczog

11/06, Brussels Conference "[Bilan social de l'Union européenne 2011](#)", European Social Observatory

20/06, Brussels EMPL Committee Public Hearing on a European statute for mutuals

19-20/06, Longbotten [Arctic light ehealth conference](#) - From policy to action: ehealth to anyone, anywhere, at anytime.

22-28 July, Venice [Observatory Venice Summer School 2012](#) on performance assessment, European Observatory on Health Systems: to marshal the evidence on performance, to review what it means for health systems and to share experiences of responding through policy and in practice.

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***The monthly AIM Flash is compiled by Ph. Swennen, R. Kessler and Blandine Cassou-Mounat.  
Realisation & Layout: Blandine Cassou-Mounat supervised by Cristina Vallina  
For more information on one of the topics mentioned above, please contact the AIM Secretariat.***

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